INFORMATION

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U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a non-profit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. To achieve this goal, it works closely with key industries and research organizations and federal, state and local government agencies.

USGBC includes more than 16,000 member companies and organizations, including nearly 200 Fortune 500 companies, as well as architecture and engineering firms, developers, builders, home owners, contractors and manufacturers, students, and teachers.

Through the LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™, the preeminent program for rating the design, construction and operation of green buildings and other tools, USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation. It also promotes green building through robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of 80 chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities.

Green Building Industry Facts

- Between 2009 and 2013, green building is projected to **contribute $554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product**.[i]
- The green building industry is expected to generate **7.9 million jobs through 2013**.[ii]
- The **annual market for green building products and services** in the U.S. is **$36-$49 billion**, a figure projected to double by the year 2013.[iii]
- **Construction** yields an **annual output of $4.6 trillion** and **employs a workforce of about 120 million people**.[iv]

USGBC & the Center for Green Schools

USGBC is committed to cost-efficient and energy saving practices in sectors of the building industry, including residential, commercial, and government. In particular, with the launch of the Center for Green Schools in 2010, USGBC continues to lead in transforming our nation's schools into sustainable places to learn and work. Green schools improve student health and performance, increase teacher retention, reduce operating costs (green schools use less water and energy and saves schools approximately $100,000 a year), and protect the environment.

What is LEED?

Unlike a building code which sets a minimum level of achievement, a rating system serves to quantify beyond-code green building efforts and establish levels of success to which a builder can aspire. Developed by USGBC, the LEED Green Building Rating System™ is a voluntary, consensus-based rating system that provides third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies that have demonstrated success at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings,

water efficiency, location efficiency, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

By using less energy and water and reducing operation and maintenance costs, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; and contribute to a healthier environment. Compared with conventional buildings, LEED buildings reduce energy use by 24-50%; CO_2 emissions by 33-39%; water use by 40%; and waste by 70%.[v]

Who Uses LEED?

Architects, real estate professionals, facility managers, engineers, interior designers, landscape architects, construction managers, builders, developers, lenders and government officials all use LEED to help save money, achieve sustainability goals, and to be leaders and innovators in their fields. There are more than 157,000 LEED-accredited professionals, which include men and women in the design and construction industries, as well as others working in the building sector who are dedicated to high-performing, low-impact buildings.

Over 450 state and local governments across the country have adopted green building policies, and 14 federal agencies have adopted department-wide LEED initiatives, including the Departments of Defense, Energy, and State. LEED projects can be found in over 110 countries around the world.

How is LEED Developed?

LEED rating systems are developed through an open, consensus-based process led by volunteer LEED committees. Each volunteer committee is composed of a diverse group of practitioners and experts representing a cross-section of the building and construction industry. The key elements of USGBC's consensus process include a balanced and transparent committee structure, technical advisory groups that ensure scientific consistency and rigor, opportunities for stakeholder comment and review, member ballot of new rating systems and credits, and a fair and open appeals process.

For more information on USGBC and LEED, please visit www.usgbc.org, or contact Bryan Howard, Legislative Director, at bhoward@usgbc.org or 202-640-2344.

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[i] Ibid.

[ii] Booz Allen Hamilton (2009). Green Jobs Study.

[iii] *McGraw Hill Construction (2009). Green Outlook 2009: Trends Driving Change.*

[iv] *McGraw-Hill Construction (2008). Key Trends in the European and U.S. Construction Marketplace: SmartMarket Report.*

[v] Data from: GSA Public Buildings Service (2008), "Assessing Green Building Performance: A post occupancy evaluation of 12 GSA buildings;" Greg Kats (2003), "The Costs and Financial Benefits of Green Building, a Report to California's Sustainable Building Task Force;" and C. Turner & M. Frankel (2008), "Energy Performance of LEED for New Construction Buildings: Final Report."